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USSR

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"IRINA" AND (COVERNAME "KON'KOBESHETS"):
 REPORT ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN FINLAND
 (1943)

From: STOCKHOLM

To: MOSCOW

No.: 3224 ✓

2nd December 1943

[2-part message complete]

[a]

[Part I] [4 groups unrecovered] "IRINA"[i] with a journalist from the "SOCIAL-DEMOKRATEN", [ii] (known to you under the covername of "KON'KOBESHETS"=[iii][b]), who after a month's stay in FINLAND a week ago returned

[37 groups unrecoverable]

the Finns cannot and do not wish; SWEDEN gives little help and does not wish to involve herself in the question of the Finns' withdrawal

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from the war. One of the Trade Union leaders - evidently VUORI(iv) - [B% said that] if the Finns [5 groups unrecovered] receive help from [D% AMERICA] and SWEDEN, they will be forced to form a military, economic and political union with the USSR in order to secure FINLAND within her geographic frontiers and avoid the migration of Finns to [1 group unrecovered]. The Finns awaited with [1 group unrecovered] the results of the MOSCOW conference and

[22 groups unrecovered]

does not apply to FINLAND. The Finnish Social-Democrats consider that the main

[37 groups unrecoverable]

[1 group unrecovered]

section of the GUSTAF attached to the Finnish police for "the investigation of the matter in question".

[19 groups unrecovered]

The mood of the population of [D% KARELIA] [6 groups unrecovered] Karelians [1 group unrecovered] that they

[33 groups unrecovered]

population of the ÅLAND ISLANDS

[21 groups unrecovered]

otherwise "to conclude a separate peace with the USSR and detach themselves from FINLAND [1 group unrecovered]. [3 groups unrecovered]

[ii] that the Finns would not give up HANGÖ* as part of a peace treaty but would be ready to cede the ÅLAND ISLANDS to the USSR. has the impression that the leader of the Opposition suspects KETO's(v) regime: FAGERHOLM(vi) is close to the latter

[53 groups unrecoverable]

[Part II]

This proposal is opposed not only by the members of the Government but also by the Opposition; they consider that [1 group unrecovered] the Finnish Army would be leaving well [1 group unidentified](c) positions for a less [1 group unidentified](c) [1 group unrecovered] and would make it possible for the Red Army to occupy the whole of FINLAND without any particular effort. was present at the plenary session of the Social-Democrat [B% Party] [6 groups unrecovered]. There were more than 100 persons at the plenary session. TANNER(vii) delivered a report on the international situation in which he proved

[71 groups unrecoverable]

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and the establishment of [1 group unrecovered] contact with the USSR. Several members of the Opposition from HELSINKI supported KETO. All the delegates straight away joined TANNER and the Opposition remained in a small minority. Among the Opposition the question of a new government is being discussed, [D% on the basis of] the candidacy of PAUSIKIVI(viii) and [2 groups unrecovered] (lawyer, [2 groups unrecovered] personally known to KIN[ix]). On 5th November RANGELL(x) reproached FAGERHOLM for making a speech praising NORWAY at the private meeting of the Social-Democrats. Among those at the meeting was a German agent. The Germans lodged a protest with the Finns against FAGERHOLM's speech. As a consequence of this [D% P.(vi)] resigned: on 3rd December [1 group unrecovered] to STOCKHOLM and will not return to the Government. [1 group unrecovered] place [1 group unrecovered] will be appointed the present Secretary of the Social-Democrat Party, Aleksi M. LITONEN[xi]. Rumours about MANNERHEIM's[xii] [D% close association with] the Opposition are considered by to be baseless: he considered that M.[xii] remains, as before, a loyal servant of the Government. The head of the Finnish Censorship, MEINANDER(MINANDER)[xiii] recently [1 group unrecovered] has just been removed, on the insistence of the Opposition, from his post and sent to the SVIR'[xiv] front. According to this happened because it was established that M.[xiii] was an agent of DAGENS NYKHETER(DAGENS NYUKHETER)[xv] who informed [1 group unrecovered] opposition.

No. 598

[a]

Notes:

[a] Address and signature not recovered.

[b] Close brackets possibly omitted in error.

[c] The same unidentified group occurs in each of these two places.

Comments:

(i) IRIN:

Aleksandra Nikolayevna Yartseva, Counsellor and Press Attaché at the Soviet Legation in STOCKHOLM.

[ii]

[iii] KON'KOB'ZHETS:

i.e. "SKATIR";
[ii]).

(see Comment

[iv] VUORI:

Arno VUORI, Social-Democrat, President of the Finnish Trade Unions.

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Comments

- [Cont'd]: [v] KETO: ✓ Jaakko William KETO, Chairman of the Socialist Union Party.
- [vi] FAGERHOLM/P. ✓ Karl August FAGERHOLM, Social-Democrat; Minister of Social Welfare in the Finnish (LINKOMIES) Government until December 1943.
- [vii] TANNER: ✓ Väinö Alfred TANNER, Minister of Finance in the Finnish (LINKOMIES) Government; Social-Democrat.
- [viii] PÄÄSIVIKI: ✓ Juho Kusti PÄÄSIVIKI, non-Party, formed a new Government on 17th November 1944.
- [ix] KIN: ✗ Boris Nikolaevich YERTSEV, Counsellor at the Soviet Legation in STOCKHOLM and MGB Resident until his departure from SWEDEN on 15th July 1943.
- [x] RANGELL: ✓ Johan Wilhelm (Jukka) RANGELL, Prime Minister of FINLAND from January 1941 to March 1943.
- [xi] Aleksi AALTONEN: ✓ Succeeded FAGERHOLM (see Comment [vi]) as Minister of Social Welfare in the Finnish (LINKOMIES) Government; Social-Democrat.
- [xii] MANNERHEIM/N.: ✓ Field Marshal Carl Gustaf Emil MANNERHEIM.
- [xiii] MEINANDER/M.: ✓ Probably Nils MEINANDER, Assistant Chief of Information Service, Secretary of the Diet group of the Swedish People's Party in FINLAND.
- [xiv] SVIR': River SVIR', 61.82N : 34.58E, U.S.S.R.
- [xv] DAGENS NYHETER: ✓ Swedish Liberal Party newspaper.

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